

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in the above-identified application and stand allowed.

The amendments made herein to the claims and specification do not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed. For example, the Examiner suggested the amendment to the specification at page 5 in the outstanding Office Action.

Disclosure Objection

The Examiner has objected to Applicants' specification at page 5 based upon the use of the term "etc." therein. This term has been removed from the specification and replaced with "and the like" in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 20, 21 and 23 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph. Further, claims 20-24 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of each of these rejections is respectfully requested based upon the cancellation of claims 20-24.

Claim Rejection Under 35 USC § 101

Claims 20-24 have been rejected under 35 USC § 101. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested based upon the cancellation of claims 20-24.

Additional Considerations

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's courtesy in indicating that claims 1-2 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

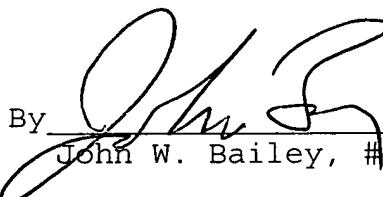
Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that pending claims 1-2 are allowed and patentable under all provisions of Title 35 of the United States Code.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Eugene T. Perez (Reg. No. 48,501) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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